

USS CABILDO (LSD-16)  
Dress Post Office  
San Francisco, Calif.

1968

16016/NR/VW:jlz  
5750  
Ser: 322  
2 July 1969

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, USS CABILDO (LSD-16)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-0989)

Subj: Command History; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12 of 8 November 1966

Encel: (1) Chronological Synopsis of Events  
(2) Chronological Narrative of Significant Events  
(3) Commanding Officers Photograph and Biography  
(4) Intelligence Collection Summary  
(5) Communications/Electronics Summary  
(6) Officer/Enlisted Roster  
(7) Civic Action Report

1. The command history of USS CABILDO (LSD-16) is forwarded in compliance with reference (a).

R. C. Johnston  
R. C. JOHNSTON

Copy to:

CNO  
COMPHIEPAC  
CINCPACFLT  
COMPHIERON SEVEN

1968

CHRONOLOGICAL SYNOPSIS OF DUTIES

Jan 1-13  
13-31  
Feb 1-2  
Feb 2-9 Apr  
  
Apr 9-20  
20-30  
  
May 1-9  
  
10-26  
  
May 26-8 Jun  
Jun 8-15  
Jun 16-4 Jul  
  
Jul 9-17  
Jul 18-7 Aug  
Aug 7-11  
11-21  
22-31  
Sep 1-16  
  
19-25  
  
Oct 3-12  
  
22-28  
28-1 Nov  
Nov 6-9  
11-12  
  
17-26  
26-14 Dec  
14-31

In port San Pedro, California for overhaul.  
In port Long Beach, California for sea trials.  
In port Seal Beach, California, loading ammunition  
Underway between Long Beach and San Diego, California  
on independent steaming exercises and refresher training.  
In port San Pedro, California for upkeep.  
In port Long Beach, California. Conducted Pre-deployment  
preparations.  
Enroute from Long Beach, California to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
in company with USS MERRICK (AKA-97), USS CARTER HALL (LSD-3)  
and USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8). Participated in COMFLEET 1-68.  
Enroute from Pearl Harbor to Subic Bay, Philippines.  
Chopped to OPCON COMSEVENTHFLT on 19 May 1968.  
Conducted various lifts to ports in Viet Nam.  
In port Subic Bay, Philippines for upkeep.  
Conducted various lifts to ports in Viet Nam on arrival Danang,  
20 June 68, CDR R.C. JOHNSTON relieved CDR D.R. FREYTAG as  
Commanding Officer (see enclosure (3)), returned to Subic Bay.  
In port Sasebo, Japan for upkeep.  
Conducted various lifts to ports in Viet Nam.  
In port Subic Bay, Philippines.  
Conducted various lifts to ports in Viet Nam.  
In port Subic Bay, Philippines for upkeep.  
Conducted various lifts to ports in Viet Nam. Typhoon BESS  
Evasion (3 days) off coast of Viet Nam. Returned to Yokosuka  
Japan.  
In port Sasebo, Japan. Returned to Subic Bay spending three  
days typhoon ELAINE evasion while enroute.  
Conducted various lifts to ports in Viet Nam and in the  
Philippines. Returned to Subic Bay.  
In port Hong Kong, British Crown Colony for rest and recreation.  
Conducted various lifts to ports in Vietnam.  
In port Keelung, Taiwan.  
In port Buckner Bay, Okinawa. Conducted boat operations with  
Marines. Enroute to Kure, Japan.  
In port Yokosuka, Japan.  
Enroute from Yokosuka to Long Beach, California with a stop  
in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.  
In port Long Beach. Leave Period.

Enclosure (1)

CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

DATE TIME (ZULU) EVENT

March

1-4		Moored at San Diego, California
4	0632	Underway from San Diego for training with FLENNAGAN observers.
6-13		In port Long Beach, California
16		COMPHIBRON 7 pays visit on Commanding Officer USS CABILDO.
18	0346	Underway from Long Beach Naval Station to San Diego, California.
18-22		Anchored at Coronado Roads
		Conducted boat wave maneuvers and cargo handling exercises
22	0924	Underway from San Diego to Long Beach, California.
22-25		In port Long Beach, California
25	0754	Underway from Long Beach Naval Station on operations.
	1224	Anchored 1 mile off Camp Del Mar Beach.
26	0750	Commenced ballasting, launching and recovering 8 LVT's.
27-29		Anchored in right flank of boat lane 3, Coronado, California
		conducting various boat exercises.
29	0823	Underway from Coronado Roads to Long Beach, California
29-3 April		In port Long Beach, California

April

3-20		In port Todd Shipyard for pre-deployment yard period
20	1024	Underway from Todd Shipyard to Long Beach Naval Station
20-30		In port Long Beach Naval Station
25	1530	Received a visit from Commander Amphibious Squadron SEVEN
29	0815	Loaded three sections of PBR Mobile Base.
30	1612	Received visit from Commander Amphibious Squadron SEVEN

May

1	0306	Commander Amphibious Squadron SEVEN arrived.
	1018	Underway from Long Beach, California, to Pearl Harbor.
		Steaming in convoy with USS MERRICK (AKA-97), and USS CARTER HALL (LSD-3). The CARTER HALL is the guide. OTC and SOPA is Captain C.H. BISHOP, USN, COMPHIBRON SEVEN, embarked on USS CABILDO. The CABILDO has PBR Mobile Base TWO, twelve 3000 lb Danforth anchors and 84 pieces of Handclasp material on board.
2	0200	USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8) joins convoy.
	1410	COMPHIBRON SEVEN departs CABILDO by helicopter for USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8). While underway, ships of the convoy conducted various drills including tactical maneuvers, communications, gunnery, and engineering casualty drills.
9	0824	CABILDO arrives in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
11	0721	Underway from Pearl Harbor enroute to Subic Bay in formation with USS CARTER HALL and USS MERRICK. CO, USS MERRICK is OTC. Chap to OPCON COMSEVENTHFLT, proceed in company with USS CARTER HALL. OTC was CO, USS CARTER HALL.
19	2200	Detached from formation by OTC to proceed on duty assigned.
26	1400	Received fuel and mail from USS TALUGA (AO-62).
27	0722	Anchored in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.
28	0224	Underway from Subic Bay, to Vung Tau, Republic of Viet Nam.
29	0715	

Enclosure (2)

DATE

11103 (104) 5/23/70

June

1 0735 CABELDO anchored in Vung Tau Harbor, Republic of Vietnam, to await pilot and favorable tide.

2 0648 Underway for Nha Be transiting Long Tau River.

2 0945 Off-loaded PBM Mobile Base TWO, Danforth Anchors and Head-clasp material at Nha Be. Got underway for Vung Tau.

3 1755 Passed through channel at Vung Tau enroute to Gua Viet.

3 0750 Lying to off Gua Viet River for off-loading PBM's.

4 0921 Underway for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

6 1430 Sighted a Chinese Communish Ship at  $14^{\circ} 36'N$ ,  $112^{\circ} 24'E$ . Ship did not answer challenge and raised Chicom Flag on stern only after CABELDO closed.

9 1715 Conducted unrep of opportunity with USS MISFILLION (AO-105).

9 0930 Sample of #1 boiler water tested salty. It was later found that there was a light scale formation in #2 boiler.

9 1300 During the afternoon, the Ship Repair Facility, Subic inspected the plant and found no tube damage and that aside from contamination, the boilers were in good condition. The ship requested and received from the BELMINT 5,000 gallons of feed water to flush out our main and auxiliary steam systems. Subsequently, it was found that we required a great deal more flushing feed water and again feed water was requested and received, about 7,000 gallons from the USS LONG BEACH and about the same amount from the USS FINDLAY. Later, when the ship had anchored out, we received enough feed water from the FINDLAY via LCM-6 (with tank truck embarked) to top off prior to departure. During the time that work was being performed on the plant, personnel in the Engineering Department worked long and hard in temperatures of up to  $130^{\circ}$ , several suffering from heat prostration. The prospective Commanding Officer, Commander R.C. JOHNSTON reported aboard.

12 0910 Commanding Officer and Prospective Commanding Officer called COMNAVASE Subic Bay (RADM GILKESEN).

13 1523 Underway and anchored in the bay for loading of four LCM Sixes, DWT 12 Swimmer Support Boat.

17 2014 Underway enroute to Danang, Republic of Vietnam.

18 1300 While enroute to Danang, a Z-29-G Gunner exercise was conducted. A probable submarine contact was sighted, bearing  $265^{\circ}$  true at about 5 miles. The snorkel was evident and a USN P-3 aircraft was circling the scene dropping smoke floats and assumed sonobuoys. Contact was not held on radar and visual contact was lost at about 1725 when submarine ceased snorkeling and went deep.

20 0700 Arrived Danang, and assumed SOPA.

20 0915 Commander Amphibious Squadron SEVEN arrived.

20 1000 Commenced the Change of Command Ceremony; both Commander R.R. FREYTAG and Commander R.C. JOHNSTON read their orders and addressed the officers and men of the CABELDO. Commander R.C. JOHNSTON assumed Command of the CABELDO. COMPIION SEVEN departed.

21 1300 CO made informal call on RADM J. E. OSBORN, COMNAVSUPACT DIAWAT at his headquarters.

22 1758 Underway for Phan Rang, Republic of Viet Nam.

22 0815 Arrived at Phan Rang and anchored in the bay.

22 1043 Loaded one ZLIC-1 with crew embarked and got underway for Vung Tau, Republic of Vietnam.

From

23 0745 Anchored in Vung Tau Harbor to off-load XLLG-1. Off-loaded four LCM-6's and the 16 ft Swimmer Support Boat.  
           1140 Underway for Subic Bay, Republic of Philippines.

25 0700 Anchored Subic Bay, Republic of Philippines to load one special craft, YLLG-2, LCU-1482, and three POF's.  
           2200 Underway, enroute to Tan Ky, Republic of Vietnam  
           0700 Arrived Tan Ky off-loaded YLLG-2, without anchoring, immediately proceeded to Danang, Republic of Vietnam.  
           1105 Arrived and anchored in Danang Harbor. Off-loaded embarked special craft and LCU 1482.  
           1400 Loaded LCM-1 874 and POF 63.  
           1600 Underway from Danang enroute to Cam Ranh Bay.

26 0530 Arrived at Cam Ranh Bay, commenced off-loading of POF's.

July

1 1230 Enroute Subic Bay.  
   3 1730 Anchored Subic. Off-loaded LCM-1 874 and POF 63.  
   5 0600 Enroute Sasebo.  
   9 0800 Moored Sasebo, Japan and commenced scheduled upkeep.  
   11 1530 CO called on COMFLEACT Sasebo, CAPT R.G. OLIVER, USN.  
   11 0930 CO called on COMINFLT ONE, CAPT HARDCASTLE in his flagship, USS MFPING FOREST. He returned call immediately following.  
   15 0930 CO's present SASEBO made group call on COMSEVENTHFLT in flagship, USS PROVIDENCE and received a 45 minute summary of Fleet Operations and Vietnam (about one hour with questions).  
   17 Completed Sasebo upkeep. After 60% of Halo/super deck removed and secured in place on remaining 40% of super deck to keep well deck clear for scheduled dredge lifts. The job required 5 full days to accomplish. This upkeep in essence became a minor overhaul, with the amount of work accepted and completed by SRU Sasebo. A substantial number of INSURV and material discrepancies were corrected. It was a most timely and productive period for CABILDO.  
   18 0645 Loaded three PCF's; no's. 29, 49 and 67.  
   0800 Underway for Cam Ranh Bay  
   24 0600 Anchored Cam Ranh Bay.  
   0930 Completed off-load of three PCF's.  
   2030 Completed loading POF ONE Deep Sea Dredge and dredge tender.  
   25 1400 Underway and enroute Vung Tau.  
   26 0950 Completed urep with USS GUADALUPE (AO-32).  
   1300 Anchored Vung Tau Harbor. Experienced 18 hour off-loading delay due to inclement weather.  
   27 0815 Completed off-loading Deep Sea Dredge and tender.  
   1300 Underway for Cam Ranh Bay.  
   28 0800 Anchored Cam Ranh Bay.  
   0830 Loaded POF no. 51, Deep Sea Dredge and dredge tender.

Import Cam Ranh Bay, RVN  
 0000 Underway from Cam Ranh Bay, RVN to Tan My, RVN  
 0400 Arrived in Tan My and was informed by Tan My Control that SeaBee Dredge and Tender would be offloaded at Gua Viet, RVN, resulting in a 4 hour delay in offloading.  
 1530 Arrived Gua Viet and offloaded Seabees Dredge and Tender.  
 1700 Underway from Gua Viet to Danang, RVN.  
 2230 Anchored in Danang Harbor.  
 0400 Loaded one Bolster Work Boat (LCVP Type) and LCM-8, #824.  
 1900 Underway from Danang to Subic Bay.  
 Enroute Subic Bay.  
 0800 Arrived in Subic Bay.  
 1245 Offloaded one POF 51 and one Bolster Work Boat, LCM-8 824.  
 Import Subic Bay  
 1100 Loaded one assigned craft and one LCU #1475.  
 1315 Underway from Subic Bay to Vung Tau, RVN.  
 Enroute to Vung Tau, RVN.  
 1030 Arrived in Vung Tau.  
 2345 Loaded ACB-1 personnel and cargo.  
 0630 Underway from Vung Tau to Danang, RVN.  
 Enroute to Danang, RVN.  
 0700 Arrived in Danang.  
 0830 Offloaded LCU 1475, assigned craft and ACB-1 personnel and cargo.  
 1445 Loaded LCU 1624.  
 2050 Underway from Wunder Beach to Qui Nhon, RVN.  
 0700 Arrived at Wunder Beach.  
 0900 Loaded U.S. Army LARC XL 54, 59 and 60 and Army personnel.  
 0944 Underway from Wunder Beach to Qui Nhon, RVN.  
 0600 Arrived at Qui Nhon, RVN.  
 0650 Offloaded U.S. Army LARC XL 54, 59 and 60 and Army personnel.  
 0700 Enroute from Qui Nhon to Subic Bay.  
 0100 Received distress call from Taiwanese Tuna Boat, DAN LIN, reporting screw damage and requesting tow to Kaoshung.  
 Because of priority upkeep committment in Subic, offered and prepared to tow to Subic and requested instructions from SEVENTH Air Force and COMNAVPHL. COMNAVPHL directed CABTIDO to proceed on duty assigned.  
 1030 Arrived at Subic Bay.  
 1305 Offload LCU 1624.  
 0030 Hoisted starboard side to USS KALWISKI (AO-146). LCDR (b) (6) and LT (b) (6) plus 7 senior enlisted petty officers from Navy Manpower Validation Office, Pacific embarked to commence random activity sampling survey for CABTIDO class ISD directed by CNO.  
 Commenced upkeep period. Flight Deck reinstalled by SDF Subic Bay.

In port Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
 2200  
 1341  
 0600  
 0944  
 1000  
 1021  
 2159  
 0743  
 0815  
 1044  
 0812  
 1105  
 0841  
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 1606  
 0500  
 1726  
 19-22  
 22  
 23-25  
 26  
 27-30  
 Oct  
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 5  
 6

Loaded one LCU 1493, and two LCM-8's  
 Underway from Subic Bay to DaNang, RVN  
 Arrived in DaNang and offloaded LCU 1493 and two LCM-8's.  
 Underway from DaNang to Munder Beach, RVN. Because of low visibility, rains, high winds and seas associated with Tropical Storm BESS, CABILDO scheduled pick up of U.S. Army LARC's over the beach could not be made. Remained over night to try again next day. Winds up to 60 Kts encountered.  
 Underway off coast of Vietnam in storm evasion status enroute to DaNang, RVN.  
 Tropical Storm BESS passed directly over CABILDO with 180 degree wind shift and forced retirement to south to wait for improved weather.  
 Arrived DaNang.  
 Underway from DaNang to Munder Beach, RVN.  
 Arrived Munder Beach, RVN  
 Loaded LARC's numbers 17, 38, 39 and U.S. Army trucks and equipment.  
 Underway from Munder Beach to Vung Ro, RVN.  
 Arrived Vung Ro, RVN. Offloaded LARC's and assigned vehicles and equipment.  
 Underway from Vung Ro to DaNang, RVN.  
 Arrived DaNang  
 Loaded three causeways and two warping tugs.  
 Underway from DaNang to Yokosuka, Japan.  
 Arrived Yokosuka, Japan. Offloaded causeways and warping tugs. Manpower Team completed work and departed.  
 Underway from Yokosuka, Japan to Sasebo, Japan.  
 Upkeep period Sasebo, Japan.  
 Loaded two PCF's numbers 47 and 62.  
 In port Sasebo, Japan. CABILDO was scheduled to get underway 0800 22 SEP 68, but delayed her departure because typhoon DELIA's forecasted movement was directly along CABILDO's proposed track. Typhoon passed Sasebo with peak winds about 60 Kts, but CABILDO sustained no damage.  
 Underway from Sasebo, Japan to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
 Due to the proximity of Typhoon ELAINE, CABILDO took evasive measures to avoid storm center.  
 Arrived Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
 Loaded three PCF's numbers 43, 02 and 16.  
 Loaded two LCM-8's and one YFU.  
 Underway from Subic Bay to Can Ranh Bay, RVN.  
 Arrived Can Ranh Bay, RVN. Offloaded PCF number 47 and 52 from well and loaded one LCW.  
 Offloaded PCF number 9, 16, and 43 from flight deck.  
 Underway from Can Ranh Bay, RVN to DaNang, RVN.

TIME (LST) ACTIV

Int.

	1300	Made rendezvous with USS WHITTIELD COUNTY. Steamed in formation and conducted various tactical maneuvers (Unscheduled training).
	0752	Arrived Danang, RVN. Offloaded two LCM-8's and one YFU.
	1000	Loaded one YFU.
	1802	Underway from Danang, RVN to San Fernando, Republic of the Philippines.
11	0915	Arrived in San Fernando, Republic of the Philippines. Pilot required by LOGME reply was not provided. Anchored without pilot after 1.5 hour delay. Offloaded LCU number 1556.
	1647	Underway from San Fernando to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.
12	0625	Arrived Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. Offloaded YFU number 69 and ammunition.
13-20	1450	Import Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. (Upkeep Period). Loaded two LCM-8's and one PCF.
14	0730	Underway from Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines to Hong Kong, British Crown Colony.
	0922	Rendezvous with USS MERRICK (AKA-97). Conducted various tactical maneuvers with MERRICK while enroute Hong Kong.
15	0837	Moored at Hong Kong, British Crown Colony.
15-26		Import Hong Kong. The crew and officers of the CABILDO took advantage of the rest and recreation provided during their six day stay in port.
17	1250	A group of Chinese Boy Scouts were given a tour of the CABILDO. Celebrated Navy Day.
18	0800	Underway from Hong Kong, British Crown Colony to Danang, RVN.
19	0700	Arrived Danang RVN and offloaded two LCM-8's.
20	1000	Arrived Cam Ranh Bay, RVN.

16-27

	1253	Underway from Cam Ranh Bay to Keelung, Taiwan.
	1030	Arrived Keelung, Taiwan, CO CABILDO, SUPA, and Commander, THIRD Naval District exchanged calls.
17-29		The officers and men of the CABILDO enjoy three days of rest and recreation with tours and shopping trips to Taipei.
	0630	Underway from Keelung, Taiwan to Buckner Bay, Okinawa. Very rough seas/swells reduced SOA to 5 knots with heavy rolls.
18	0430	Made rendezvous with USS HASSAYAMPA (AQ-145) (one day later than initially scheduled) and completed underway replenishment.
19	0800	Arrived Buckner Bay, Okinawa.
20	0700	Underway from Buckner Bay to Ora Bay for INT operations with the marines.
	1721	Arrived Buckner Bay
21	0830	Underway from Buckner Bay, Okinawa to Kure, Japan.
22	0700	Arrived Kure, Japan at Quarantine anchorage.
	1100	Loaded one AVR.

TIME (LST) EVENT

10-29  
0700 Arrived Yokosuka, Japan. Commenced upkeep period.  
In port Yokosuka, Japan. While testing turbine to determine cause of noise, rotor seized necessitating the lifting of turbine casing. It was discovered that a loose turbine blade had caused the damage of three rows of blades. NAV SHIPREPPAC Yokosuka worked around the clock to repair and reinstall the turbine rotor. After successful completion of trials, the CAVILO departed.

1230 Underway from Yokosuka, Japan to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

10-30

0916 Arrived Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
0900 Underway from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to Long Beach, California.

10-31  
1000 Arrived Long Beach, California, after a 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  month deployment to WESTPAC.  
In port Long Beach, California